

TWENTY-FIVE YEARS AGO†

EXCERPTS FROM OUR STATE MEDICAL JOURNAL

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From Some Editorial Notes:

Record Your Certificate.—To practice medicine legally in this State you must first get a license from the State Board of Medical Examiners and then have that license, or certificate, recorded in the county in which you reside and practice. The recording of the license is made as much a part of the law as the getting of it, and it is just as important. The Board of Examiners has found that this provision of the law has been very generally overlooked by a considerable number of physicians. . . .

Another Why?—Last month the JOURNAL published some editorial notes relating to distinguished physicians who had contributed articles to publications which continue to advertise nostrums and frauds that have been shown up. These remarks have created some little comment which, so far as it has come to the attention of the JOURNAL, has been entirely favorable. We shall continue to refer to the subject from time to time. In the *American Journal of Urology* for February, 1912, there is an article by Dr. ———, a distinguished physician of San Francisco and for many years a prominent member of our Society. In the same issue of that medical (?) journal are to be found the following advertisements: ergoapiol, antiphlogistine, glycothymoline, peptomangan, glycoheroin, antheol, and dioradin. The list is not so large as some, but that is probably because the publication is a special one and, doubtless, has but a limited circulation. Does Dr. ——— know anything about the things that that journal advertises? . . .

Hydrophobia.—Interest in rabies has been greatly intensified by its suddenly becoming prevalent in San Francisco. During the month of February many dogs developed the characteristic symptoms and a number of human beings were bitten. Proof of the presence of rabies was secured in many cases by the demonstration of Negri bodies in the ganglion cells of the brain tissue, and in some instances by the production of the disease in laboratory animals, through inoculation. The examinations were made in the State Hygienic Laboratory in Berkeley, in the laboratory of the San Francisco Health Department, and in the laboratory of the Letterman General Hospital at the Presidio.

The State Board of Health has done much to minimize the number of human deaths by providing Pasteur treatment with United States Government virus for the people who have been bitten by rabid animals and are unable to be immunized at their own expense. . . .

From an Article on "The Life of Radium and Its Therapeutic Use in Internal Medicine" by E. O. Jellinek, M.D., San Francisco.—You remember, that if you force a sufficient electric current through the so-called Crookes tube that this tube will display some characteristic light effects around the anode and the cathode. As the light effects displayed around the cathode are the only ones which have any bearing on the subject which we intend to investigate tonight, I will ask your permission to recall in a few words the phenomena displaying themselves around this terminal. . . .

From an Article on "A General Consideration of Some Points of Interest in the Diagnosis and Treatment of Syphilis" by George D. Culver, M.D., San Francisco.—Schaudinn and Hoffman's discovery of the *Spirocheta pallida*, Wassermann's application of the complement—

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† This column strives to mirror the work and aims of colleagues who bore the brunt of Association work some twenty-five years ago. It is hoped that such presentation will be of interest to both old and new members.

BOARD OF MEDICAL EXAMINERS OF THE STATE OF CALIFORNIA†

By CHARLES B. PINKHAM, M.D.
Secretary-Treasurer

News

"Alleging that [I.] Jesse Citron, Hemet physician, retarded his recovery when he was ill with pneumonia last summer and that \$12,000 is not a 'reasonable and proper' fee for medical services, W. C. Fields, screen comedian, last Friday filed a counterclaim against the physician, asking \$25,000 damages. Doctor Citron seeks to collect \$12,000 through the courts for medical services said to have been rendered the film star during his illness. According to the cross complaint filed by the screen star in Riverside County Court, Doctor Citron 'wilfully treated the defendant in such a way as materially to retard the recovery of defendant; that plaintiff administered certain drugs and medicines to defendant which plaintiff well knew would retard recovery' of Fields. . . . Filed on January 11, the plaintiff's original complaint maintained he had labored twenty-five days and nights continuously and had 'completely cured' the actor. For such services the \$12,000 was declared a 'reasonable' fee. . . ." (*Hemet News*, February 26, 1937.)

"Al Williams, who advertises himself as a 'Conditioner of Men' at his offices in the Spring Arcade Building, overstepped bounds when he made actual medical diagnoses, according to charges yesterday in Municipal Judge Arthur Guerin's court. Williams went on trial accused of violating the State Medical Practice Act. Andrew Anagnos, bank clerk, testified Williams told him he was suffering from high blood pressure and could cure him in three months with three treatments a week for \$200. Anagnos paid Williams \$50, took nine treatments and was 'all tired out.' John Ronan, Inspector for the State Medical Board, testified Williams diagnosed his condition as serious, asserting he was suffering from heart disease. Ronan claims physicians state he is in perfect health." (*Los Angeles Illustrated Daily News*, March 6, 1937.) Acting Special Agent Ronan reported that following a jury trial, Al Williams was found guilty March 8, whereupon motion for a new trial was filed.

Our Investigation Department reports that J. Bruce Clark, D. C., said to be an office associate of Al Williams, on February 2, 1937, pleaded guilty to a charge of violation of the Chiropractic Act and on February 9 was sentenced to pay a fine of \$100 or serve fifty days in the city jail, the sentence being suspended and defendant placed on probation for one year.

"Dr. Jacques P. Gray, First Assistant Director of Public Health in San Francisco for the past seven years, will leave the San Francisco department early in April. He will accept a dual position of principal health officer and manager of the Angeline Elizabeth Kirby Memorial Health Center in Wilkesbarre, Pennsylvania. . . ." (*San Francisco Examiner*, March 9, 1937.)

"Superior Judge M. C. Glenn today upheld the right of the State Board of Medical Examiners to cancel the license of a physician for performing an illegal operation. Judge Glenn denied the petition for a writ of review, which was filed by Dr. George W. O'Donnell, San Francisco physician, who sought to annul the Board's order canceling his license." (*Associated Press* dispatch, dated Sacramento, March 2, and printed in the *Oakland Tribune*, March 2, 1937.)

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† The office addresses of the California State Board of Medical Examiners are printed in the roster on advertising page 6.